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REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 1, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowability of Claims

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 4 of the Office Action that claims 5-11, and 19-22 would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has opted to forego rewriting the claims at this time in light of the remarks set forth below.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-4, 12, 16-18, and 24-26

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 12, 16-18, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamiya (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,609). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "a rectifier comprising an input coupled to the oscillation output, and a reference output to provide a rectified signal." This element is not disclosed or suggested by Nakamiya. The Office Action states that this element is disclosed by item 30 of FIG. 1 of Nakamiya. (Office Action, p. 2). Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. Nakamiya explicitly states that item 30 of FIG.1 is a "switching element 30 for blocking the output at the output stage of the signal inversion amplifier 20." (Nakamiya, col. 6, lines 38-40). Nakamiya further states

In the circuit shown in FIG. 1, it could happen that, for example, when the transistor 40 is controlled to turn off, the transistor 28 configuring the signal inversion amplifier 20 goes on and the crystal oscillator 10 is pulled down to a low potential ($V_{sub,reg}$ level), so that the oscillation is suppressed.

That is why the output-blocking switching element 30 is provided in the output stage of the signal inversion amplifier 20 of this embodiment so that, when the transistor 40 is controlled to be off, this output-blocking switching element 30 is also used to provide off-control. This makes it possible for the crystal oscillator 10 to switch from the circuit of the signal inversion amplifier 20 and oscillate freely when the transistor 40 is controlled to turn off.

(Nakamiya, col. 6, lines 41-53 (emphasis added)).

Thus, the switching element 30 is not a rectifier and does not provide a rectified signal, as recited in claim 1. Instead, switching element 30 is used to provide "off-control" for the

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transistor 40 and the transistor 28. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1.

Claims 2-4 and 12 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose each and every element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. In addition, these claims recite additional non-obvious features.

With respect to claim 16, the claim recites "monitoring within a System On a Chip (SOC) device an oscillation output of a signal controlled oscillator of the SOC device to determine an operating condition of the signal controlled oscillator." This element is not disclosed or suggested by Nakamiya. Nakamiya nowhere discloses or suggests a system on a chip. Further, FIG. 1 of Nakamiya indicates that the circuit 60 is located separately from other elements of the system. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 16 as required by § 102.

Claims 17-18 and 24-25 depend from claim 16. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose each and every element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 16. In addition, these claims recite additional non-obvious features.

With respect to claim 26, the Office Action indicates at page 2 that the claim is rejected based on Nakamiya. However, no reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action. Claim 26 recites "selecting a first supply voltage to provide the signal controlled oscillator when the operating condition is in a first state, wherein the operating condition is in the first state when a rectified representation of the oscillation output is below a threshold value." As explained above, Nakayima does not disclose a rectified representation of an oscillation output, and does not disclose selecting a first supply voltage to provide a signal controlled oscillator when a rectified representation of the oscillation output is below a threshold value. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 26.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4, 12, 16-18, and 24-26 is improper. Withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration of the claims therefore is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 13-15

At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Namakiya in view of Heinonen (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0060176). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

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Claims 13-15 depend from claim 1. As explained above, Nakamiya does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. Accordingly, Nakamiya fails to disclose each and every element of claims 13-15, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Further, Heinonen fails to disclose the elements that are lacking in Nakamiya. Accordingly, Nakamiya and Heinonen, individually and in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 13-15. For at least this reason a prima facie rejection of claims 13-15 under § 103 has not been made.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection of claims 13-15 is improper. Withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration of the claims therefore is respectfully requested.

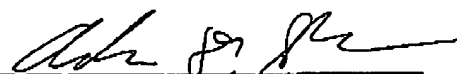
Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

10/27/05
Date


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